

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181504 TOSEC 190028

FOLLOWING REPEATS BEIRUT 6522 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

USCINCEUR 22 JUL 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6522

CINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE

SUBJECT: INCREASED SECURITY ON THE CORNICE

1. DURING PAST FOUR DAYS, SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SECURITY FORCES STATIONED ALONG CORNICHE HAS BEEN NOTED BETWEEN HOTEL RIVIERA AND CHANCERY9

2. APPROXIMATELY JULY 18, STAGHOUND WITH 75MM GUN TOOK UP POSITION NEAR AUB TOWER. SINCE THAT TIME IT HAS BECOME PEROANENT FIXTURE. TENTS HAVE BEEN SET UP FOR THE CREW, AND ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CAMOUFLAGE IT WITH SHRUBBERY. CREW HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE WITH TRAFFIC ON ROAD ITSELF, AND ITS MAJOR CONCERN APPEARS TO BE SEAWARD APPROACHES TO BEIRUT.

3. HEAVILY ARMED FOOT PATROLS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AND ARE MAINTAINED FROM DUSK TO DAWN. AT APPROXIMATELY 1930 ON JULY 21, MARKED INCREASE IN THESE SECURITY FORCES WAS OBSERVED.

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4. BEGINNING AT HOTEL RIVIERA AND SPACED APPROXIMATELY 100 YARDS APART WERE VEHICLE-MOUNTED HEAVY MACHINE GUNS OF VARIOUS TYPES AND ONE VEHICLE-MOUNTED RECOILLESS RIFLE. INCREASED NUMBERS OF TROOPS WERE ALSO EVIDENT. AS IN CASE OF STAGHOUND MENTIONED ABOVE, THESE ADDITIONAL FORCES MADE NO OBSERVED ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH VEHICULAR OR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC. THE FORCES' ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED SEAWARD, AS WERE ALL WEAPONS.

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT THIS DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY FORCES ALONG CORNICHE IS RELATED TO THE GENERAL CREDENCE BEING GIVEN TO REPORTS OF AN IMMINENT SEA ATTACK AGAINST WEST BEIRUT..
SEELYE
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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